

## AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Application for New Charter

### Request

A+ Charter Schools (“Applicant”) submitted a new charter application package on April 18, 2018. The Technical Review Panel (“TRP”) evaluated the application package and determined that the revised application package did not meet the minimum scoring requirements set by the Board for the 2019-2020 application cycle. A+ Charter Schools has requested that the revised application package not meeting the scoring criteria move forward for Board consideration. The Applicant also attended a capacity interview conducted by the TRP. Upon consideration of the application package and results of the capacity interview, the TRP recommends that the revised application package for the Applicant be approved.

### Applicant Summary

Proposed School Name	Target Start Date	School Location	Grade Levels	School Calendar
A+ Charter Schools	July 24, 2019	Maricopa	7-12	180 days

### Mission Statement

A+ Charter Schools' empowers students in reaching their greatest potential by becoming responsible individuals of character and excellence, engaged community members, and lifelong learners in an ever-changing society.

### Target Population

*The following information was summarized from the Applicant’s Educational Plan A.2: Target Population narrative.*

The Applicant cites a limited number of quality educational options for middle and high school youth in the Maricopa area. The current school choices in the area, Sequoia Pathway Academy and Maricopa Unified School District, have students performing below the state average. Additionally, the Applicant states that Sequoia Pathway Academy “consistently has a waitlist”. The Applicant notes that Maricopa has undergone a 2873% population change since the 2000 census. It is stated that “consultants predict” that the Maricopa Unified School District, where A+ Charter Schools would be located, “will see an enrollment increase of 4,100-5,800 over the next decade” and that “within the next five to seven years the high school population will grow by 95%” creating a diverse population with a need for a high quality option in the community.

### Three Year Plan

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
<b>Grade Levels</b>	7-10	7-11	7-12
<b>Enrollment</b>	175	250	300

### Proposed Location (see Business Plan C.1: Facilities Acquisition):

Unconfirmed locations:

- 19756 N. John Wayne Parkway, Maricopa
- 12501 N. Murphy Road, Maricopa
- 16540 N. Porter Road, Maricopa

### Program of Instruction

*This summary is based on information submitted for the Applicant’s Educational Plan A.1: Educational Philosophy and A.3: Program of Instruction narratives.*

The Applicant will facilitate its mission and core values using the “TEAM-Together We Succeed, Excellent Leadership Skills, Academic and Character Growth, and Motivating Students- philosophy”. The application package states that students will be served “in a small, learning community, which includes personalized learning plans for every student” and that “all students will participate in Academic Success Groups” and an Advisory Class. The Applicant’s Curriculum Team will “develop standards based curriculum maps.” Standards aligned curriculum will offer “opportunities for real-life application”. The Applicant will emphasize project-based and cooperative learning strategies, and deliver curriculum using direct whole-group, small-group, one-on-one, and differentiated instruction.

Governance

Corporate Board Members
Rebekah Krueger
Laura Newcomb

School Governing Body Members	Type
Unnamed	Community Member
Unnamed	Community Member
Unnamed	Community Member
Unnamed	Parent
Unnamed	School Staff

See Charter Principal Resumes in Appendix B.

## TRP Recommendation and Scoring

The TRP assessed the application package against the evaluation criteria published in the New Charter Application Instructions. Approval is based on either receiving 95% or higher for each plan (Educational, Operational, and Business) and/or through showing capacity throughout the interview process. The following is a summary of the evaluation information in support of the recommendation by the TRP based on the revised application package and the capacity interview.

### Overall Scoring Results

	Preliminary TRP Scores		Revised TRP Scores	
Any Falls Below the Expectations ratings?	No		No	
Any section in which more than one evaluation area scored Approaches?	Yes		Yes	
		<u>Percent Meets</u>		<u>Percent Meets</u>
Educational Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	77%	No	92%
Operational Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	Yes	100%	Yes	100%
Business Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	91%	No	94%

The TRP provided the Applicant with written technical assistance based on its review of the preliminary written application package and the revised written application package prior to the in-person capacity interview.

### TRP Recommendation

Based on the Applicant’s application package and the in-person capacity interview, the TRP recommends that the revised application package be approved. A full explanation of the TRP’s recommendation is provided in Appendix A. Recommendation Report.

## Applicant Background Summary

Additional data is provided in relation to the Applicant’s principals’ experience and qualifications, as an indicator of the Applicant’s ability to implement a charter or operate a charter school.

**Principal Name: Rebekah Krueger**

Current Affiliation(s): 12 years in various roles (Business Manager, Operations Director) with Arizona Charter Solutions

**Principal Name: Laura Newcomb**

Current Affiliation(s): 6 years as owner of the Autism Academy for Education and Development Schools

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:



- 11 years at Exceptional Academic Services providing special education services for charter schools
- 1 year as a teacher and 2 years as principal for Leading Edge Academy Charter Schools

